

HB854 Statewide Housing Study

Program Fact Sheet

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP)

Department of Housing and Community Development

Note: This fact sheet was created in October 2021. Program details can change regularly. For the most up-to-date information on this program and a program contact, please visit the link below:

[Link to program website](#)

01 Program goals

Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) funding supports the development and implementation of localized emergency crisis response systems, to ensure homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring through coordinated community-based activities. Through a housing-focused approach, the goals of VHSP are to assist households experiencing homelessness to quickly regain stability in permanent housing and to prevent households from becoming homeless. These activities are designed to reduce the overall length of homelessness in the community, the number of households becoming homeless, and the overall rate of formerly homeless households returning to homelessness.

02 Funding sources

The program is funded through a combination of state and federal funding ([Emergency Solutions Grant](#)), which is administered by HUD.

03 Governance

Community-based applications are accepted as part of the Homeless and Special Needs Housing

grants application which includes Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) funding. Each Continuum of Care (CoC) and Balance of State Local Planning Group (LPG) submits an application representing the community's coordinated request for funding. DHCD reviews the applications for funding and determines funding at the community level. This funding is then discussed with the CoC/LPG and they work in conjunction with proposed grantee organizations to determine the appropriate funding amounts per grantee by project activity type. This process ensures all funding is coordinated within the community's emergency crisis response system to meet the needs of persons experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

04 Population served

VHSP funding supports program services and activities aimed at ending or preventing homelessness for [persons experiencing literal homelessness or who are at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness](#). Each CoC/LPG has written standards that are low-barrier for determining program eligibility, prioritization, and level of assistance.

05 How program works

VHSP funding supports the development and implementation of a localized emergency crisis response system. The goals of an effective crisis response system are to identify those experiencing homelessness, prevent homelessness when possible, connect people with housing quickly, and provide services when needed. An effective crisis response system achieves those goals through the following: street outreach, coordinated/centralized entry/assessment, homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, and permanent housing solutions (rapid re-housing).

06 Program history

The program officially began in 2012.

07 Program highlights

- VHSP funding has been steadily increasing from 2016 to 2020 --- from \$14.7 million in 2016 to \$15.4 million in 2020.
- In 2020, a majority of individuals served through emergency shelter funding identified as Black and were over the age of 25.